

Jordan Times

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Libya urges quick merger with Syria
 BEIRUT (R) — Libya Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to all its previous schemes for unity with other Arab states and called for an urgent meeting with the Syrian leadership to implement a Damascus-Tripoli merger. The Libyan revolutionary command made the appeal for unity in a statement to mark the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Egyptian-Syrian United Arab Republic, which collapsed after three years. Ever since he seized power in 1969, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has been proposing various forms of unification with countries including Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Algeria. Several such mergers have been agreed on paper, but none has led to practical results. Wednesday's Libyan statement called for an urgent meeting of the Libyan and Syrian leaderships to implement immediately a unity pact drawn up in September 1980 by Col. Qadhafi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

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Israeli captain jailed for refusing Lebanon duty

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — An Israeli artillery captain was reported Wednesday to have been jailed for 28 days for refusing to perform military duty in Lebanon on grounds of conscientious objection. The *Yesh Gvul* (there is a limit) anti-war movement said Capt. Felix Laub, 37, was the highest-ranking officer to be jailed for refusing to serve in Lebanon. The movement said Capt. Laub and five other *Yesh Gvul* members—two officers and three enlisted men—were in military prisons for refusing to serve in Lebanon.

Iran rejects U.N. call for ceasefire

LONDON (R) — Iran Wednesday rejected a United Nations Security Council appeal for an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf war and pledged to continue fighting until the Iraqi government was overthrown. Prime Minister Hossein Mousavi told Tehran Radio the council's call reflected the wishes of the super-powers, adding that Iran had in the past always defied "oppressive powers." A call for a cease-fire in the 30-month-old conflict was issued on Monday by the council president, Oleg Troyanovsky of the Soviet Union, on behalf of all members.

Israel tries 4 Druze as spies

TEL AVIV (R) — Four Arab Druze living in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights are being tried on charges of spying for Syria, Israel's state radio reported Wednesday. The four, from the village of Majdal Shams, are accused by Israel of crossing into Syria illegally last spring and passing details on Israeli army positions to Syrian intelligence. The four Arabs are also charged with giving the Syrians information on Golan Druze who accepted Israeli identity cards following Israel's annexation of the Syrian heights in December, 1981.

UNRWA meets Israelis to discuss security for refugees

VIENNA (R) — United Nations officials met Israeli military commanders in Sidon, South Lebanon, Wednesday for talks on the security of Palestinian refugees in the area, U.N. sources here said. Officials from the Vienna-based J.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) met a general and two colonels in command of Israeli occupying forces in the area, the sources said. UNRWA said in a statement last Saturday that "campaign of terror" was being waged against Palestinians in south Lebanon.

Rabat daily reports Polisario in-fight

RABAT (R) — The conservative Moroccan daily *Almaghrib* said Wednesday 120 people were killed and dozens were wounded when rival factions of the Polisario front guerrilla movement clashed in the Tindouf area of southwestern Algeria. Quoting what it said generally well-informed sources, the paper said the fighting took place in Polisario camps two weeks ago. They were sparked by misappropriation of convoys bringing food and other supplies from Libya, it said.

Palestinians hail PNC compromise

ALGIERS (R) — Palestinian moderates and hardliners claimed victory Wednesday after their parliament-in-exile opted for a compromise on Middle East peace moves.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) policy-making national council ended a nine-day session Tuesday night after refusing to consider President Reagan's call for a Palestinian homeland in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan. The council said the Reagan plan failed to meet Palestinian demands for an independent state. Supporters of re-elected PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the council stopped short of closing the door to a possible reshaping of American policies in the Middle East. PLO hardliners, however, saw it as a rejection of what they regarded as U.S. attempts to impose its own stamp on the region. The council gave guarded endorsement to an Arab League plan, seen as indirectly recognising Israel in return for an independent Palestinian state. PLO moderates welcomed the endorsement while hardliners pointed out the PNC linked it to continued armed struggle and observance of earlier Palestinian decisions not to accept a Jewish state in Palestine. In a move interpreted by some PLO sources as giving the Soviet Union a chance to play a bigger role in the region, the council welcomed the late President Brezhnev's call for an international

Middle East peace conference. It also approved of Mr. Arafat sounding out the prospects of confederal links with Jordan, but only on the basis of two independent states. The PNC decisions followed 13 days of hard bargaining between Mr. Arafat's majority moderate Fatah movement and various radical groups backed mainly by Syria and Libya. The council appeared to give Mr. Arafat's leadership a free hand in dealing with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's government and with Israeli pacifists, despite hostility by PLO hardliners.

Cairo to maintain dialogue
 Egypt indicated Wednesday it would maintain contacts with the Palestinians despite the decision by the PNC that relations depended on Cairo abandoning the Camp David accords.

PNC elects PLO Executive Committee

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Palestine National Council (PNC), which wound up nine days of talks here Tuesday night, re-elected Yasser Arafat as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) 14-member Executive Committee. The newly-elected members are: Mr. Arafat (Fatah), Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi (Fatah), Mr. Yasser Abd Rabbo (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Mr. Ahmad Al Yamani (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Mr. Muhammad Khalifa (Sa'iq), Mr. Talal Naji (Pop-

ular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command), Mr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad (Arab Liberation Front), Mr. Abdul Mahsen Abu Mezar (independent), Dr. Hanna Nasir (independent), Mr. Muhammad Al Nashashibi (independent), Jamal Al Sourani (independent), Mr. Hamid Abu Sitta (independent), Dr. Ahmad Sidqi Al Dajani (independent). Dr. Hanna Nasir has also been elected president of the Palestine National Fund.

Gulf to cut oil prices

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies Wednesday agreed in principle to cut oil prices and threatened to use their economic muscle to force the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to accept a new price structure at emergency talks next week. Speaking after talks here on how to confront the threat of a world price war, Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said he and his Gulf colleagues had agreed to a cut in OPEC's \$34 a barrel reference price. But the size of the cut depended on circumstances which he did not spell out. United Arab Emirates Minister Mana Said Al Oteibi said OPEC would hold a special conference next week in Geneva or Vienna and warned that the Gulf states would cut prices further than intended if the 13-member exporter group failed to agree. Wednesday's agreement was reached after two days of talks among the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar

Swedish team leaves Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Swedish parliamentary delegation, which arrived here for a one-day visit on Tuesday, left Amman Wednesday for Beirut. Upon the delegation's departure, its leader, Evert Svensson, said that its visit to Amman had been "fruitful" and had increased the delegation's understanding of the current political situation in the Middle East. "Our visit has given us a clear picture of the importance that the peace process can start as soon as possible," Mr. Svensson said, "and we appreciate and welcome King Hussein's efforts towards peace."

Both the Reagan plan and Fez plan contain elements that are important for peace and it is vital that the Palestinians are given the opportunity to participate fully in the negotiations about peace and their right to self-determination," he said. The Swedish delegation included another member of parliament, Mr. Pure Jadedsteg.

Libyan airline hijackers surrender

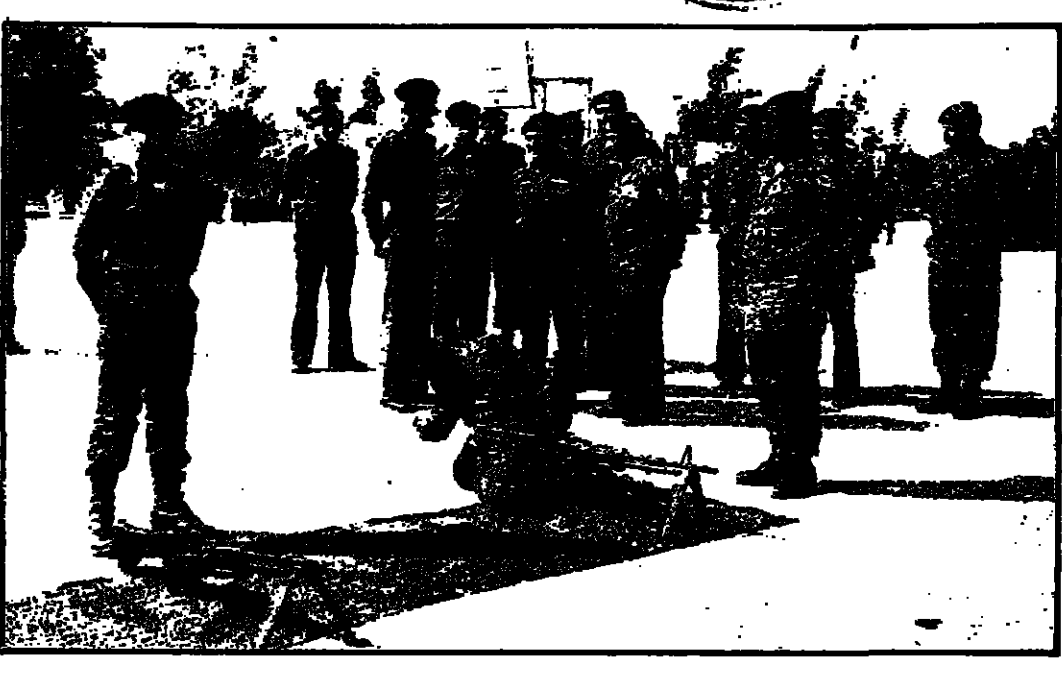
VALLETTA (R) — The hijackers of a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 surrendered at Malta's Luqa Airport Wednesday and freed all their hostages, Malta Radio reported. All the hijackers, passengers and crew had left the plane under an agreement with Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, it said. It gave no details of the agreement. The women and children came down the steps first and were taken to medical facilities set up in an old British Royal Air Force hospital on the airfield. Then the hijackers and the men passengers came out from the plane that has been their prison since it was seized on an internal flight over Libya last Sunday night. The hijackers were put in a car with Maltese Interior Minister Lorry Sant and driven to the control tower to meet Mr. Mintoff. Airport sources said the hijackers told Luqa Airport control tower earlier Wednesday that there were 11 children on the plane and they were in serious condition, without food or water. "The children are in poor shape and we cannot help them. We can only help by throwing dead bodies from the windows," the sources quoted one hijacker as saying. "You should send one uncovered car with one driver to take away any dead bodies..." Tuesday night the hijackers told the control tower they did not

want to be seen as terrorists but as opponents of the Libyan government of Col. Muammar Qadhafi and they would rather die than go back to Libya. The hijackers asked for their safety to be guaranteed by any major embassy in Malta. The United States refused to become involved in the negotiations unless the hijackers released all their hostages. Airport sources said the hijackers mentioned the U.S., West German and French embassies as possible sources of safe conduct or political asylum. The Maltese government refused to refuel the plane to fly to Morocco.

Brief curfew relaxation rekindles Karachi violence

KARACHI (R) — Police fired tear gas Wednesday on several hundred demonstrators during brief relaxation of a curfew imposed on west Karachi to end religious violence, witnesses reported. They said the tear gas barrage was fired when Sunni Muslims tried to attack a Shi'ite Muslim place of worship which was guarded by armed police. West Karachi, where about one-quarter of the city's five million people live in Pakistan's largest city, has been hit since Sunday by religious violence caused by a

dispute between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims over ownership of a mosque. Pakistan's military authorities imposed a curfew and ordered troops into the area Tuesday night to try to end disturbances in which at least six people were killed, 42 injured and cars and shops burned and looted. The witnesses said the latest trouble broke out when people were allowed out of their homes from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to buy food. After fleeing from the tear gas, the demonstrators smashed street lamps and road signs. Sunni leaders appealed to Pak-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is Wednesday briefed on various training programmes offered to army personnel at the Royal Armoured Corps school (Petra photo)

Regent visits army training schools

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visited the Royal Signal Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps schools and was briefed on the various phases of training offered there to army personnel. The Prince also toured the warehouses and workshops of the schools.

At the Royal Armoured Corps school, Prince Hassan also inspected new tanks and weapons acquired by the army. Later, at a meeting with army officers the Regent expressed satisfaction with the efficiency and the high-level of training offered by the schools.

Knesset confirms Arens

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Knesset (parliament) Wednesday confirmed Moshe Arens as the country's next defence minister in place of Ariel Sharon, who has forced to resign after being found indirectly responsible for a massacre of Palestinian refugees in Beirut last September. The vote to formally confirm Mr. Arens, who was to return this week from his post as ambassador in Washington, was 61 to 51 in the 120-member house.

Syria sets clear terms for pullout

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Wednesday gave its clearest indication yet that it will withdraw all its troops from Lebanon as soon as the Israeli forces have gone. The leadership of the ruling Baath Party said in a statement "all Syrian forces will return to Syrian territory and there will not remain a single Syrian soldier in Lebanon as soon as Lebanon regains its freedom and expels the invaders (Israelis) from its territory." But the statement warned that the security of Syria was intimately connected with that of Lebanon and Syria "will not permit any security arrangements on Lebanese territory which might in future affect the national security of Syria."

Israel is seeking what it calls "security arrangements" in South Lebanon as part of the price for withdrawing its forces, which invaded Lebanon last June. Syrian troops have been stationed in Lebanon since 1976, when they intervened to stop a civil war between rightists and an alliance of leftists. Syria has consistently objected to any arrangement which it considered would threaten its own security but until Wednesday has not publicly spelled out that it would withdraw all its men from Lebanon if it was happy with the terms of an Israeli pullback.

Israel brushes aside U.S.-offered guarantee

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Wednesday stuck to its demand for special military arrangements in South Lebanon despite President Reagan's offer to guarantee border security. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel's position had not changed and it was still seeking security arrangements with the Beirut government as a condition for withdrawing its invasion army from Lebanon.

President Reagan said Tuesday the United States was prepared to take measures to guarantee the security of Israel's northern border in return for a quick Israeli withdrawal. "We thank President Reagan for his generosity which might be helpful, but which cannot replace security arrangements on the ground based on an agreement which will ensure daily cooperation between the Israeli and Lebanese armies," Mr. Shamir said. Israel wants to keep military units at three outposts in South Lebanon. It is also pressing Lebanese negotiators to agree to joint

Israeli-Lebanese army patrols. The Lebanese have rejected the demands which they regard as a violation of their sovereignty. Mr. Shamir conferred Wednesday with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, Israeli officials said they had discussed the slow-moving Israeli-Lebanese talks but did not touch on Mr. Reagan's offer.

Later on Wednesday, Mr. Habib arrived in Lebanon on the latest stage of his mission, Beirut Radio said. Israeli-Lebanese negotiations resume Thursday in a southern suburb of Beirut amid hints that some progress may have been made. An American delegation is also taking part. Two Lebanese envoys returned to Beirut from Damascus earlier Wednesday after talks with Syrian officials on the progress of the negotiations and on the question of a Syrian withdrawal, official sources said.

Lebanon blizzard death toll rises

BEIRUT (R) — Rescue teams digging through a snow-bound section of mountain road in Lebanon found more bodies Wednesday, bringing the death toll from blizzards which hit the country last weekend to 70. A Lebanese army spokesman said military helicopters were bringing down the dead, many of whom froze in their cars buried in snow on an exposed stretch of the main Beirut-Damascus highway. It was Lebanon's worst natural disaster for years. The government has given a committee three days to investigate why the road was not closed more quickly and rescue work started sooner. The army spokesman said that rescue teams digging from both ends of the blocked section of the highway had finally met in the middle Wednesday. But it was not clear whether all the vehicles on the road had been reached and their occupants found. Some 500 people have so far been rescued.

The Beirut newspaper *As Safir*, whose photographers were among the few to reach the disaster scene, estimated there were still three kilometres of the highway to clear. The death toll stood at 70 but it was impossible to know how many people might still be buried in cars and trucks under the snow. The newspaper showed a long line of vehicles with just parts of their roofs showing above the drifts.

U.S. ends IAEA boycott

VIENNA (R) — A large U.S. delegation is attending a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) board of governors here, six months after a U.S. walkout in a row over Israel's credentials, an agency spokesman said Wednesday. The spokesman said the head of the delegation, U.S. Under-Secretary of State Richard Kennedy, told the meeting the Reagan administration was seeking the approval of the U.S. Congress to make its financial contribution to the agency's technical assistance programmes. The U.S. withdrew its delegation from an IAEA annual general conference last September following the rejection of Israel's credentials. It also withheld an \$8 million contribution to the agency's budget and about \$300,000 for technical assistance programmes. "For 1983 we hope to continue our generous record of support for technical assistance including our share of the technical assistance fund," Mr. Kennedy told the board of governors meeting.

Ustinov says Soviets can build any kind of weapon

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov said Wednesday the Soviet Union had the ability to build any sort of weapon and stressed the need for troops to be trained to handle complicated modern arms. "The ability to hit the target with the first shot and to make the best use of the mobility, firepower or other qualities of the weaponry have become priority number one today," Marshal Ustinov said in an article in the official daily *Pravda*. No one should think the Soviet Union's disarmament proposals were a sign of weakness, he said.

Moscow faced strong, technically well-equipped Western forces but the level of development of the Soviet economy and science made possible the production of the most complex military technology. "Our country is capable of producing any sort of weapon on which the enemies of peace care to wager, whether it be an MX missile, cruise missile or any other sort of military machine," Marshal Ustinov said. The article was published to mark Soviet Army and Navy Day, the 65th anniversary of their foundation.

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FEATURES

East Germany takes good care of criminals

By Paul Solding
Reuter

EAST BERLIN — Communist East Germany, following the teaching of Karl Marx that a criminal is still a human being, is proud of a law that assures offenders a job and a home when they leave jail. Everyone benefits. The individual gets somewhere to live and a income. Society gets a productive worker and someone less likely to re-offend because of his shared security.

The system also allows the state keep an eye on ex-convicts in case they go back to crime. "It is East Germany's aim that the state's responsibility should end at the prison gates," said Alfred Meyer, responsible for the policy in East Berlin, in an interview with Reuters. "We are proud of the law."

Courts and local administrators start preparing a rehabilitation programme up to a year before a convict is released. They look into his family situation, health, whether he already has a home or a job. If the offender is a juvenile, arrangements will be made for him to complete his education.

Where a job has to be arranged care is taken that it is an appropriate one. A sex offender will not be sent to work with children and further temptation will not be put in the way of a shop assistant who had her hand in the till.

Crime means many marriage break up and if the ex-convict is left without furniture he or she will get financial help with basic needs until the first pay-day, Dr. Meyer said.

Nevertheless, there are failures. The local newspaper in Leipzig last week reported the case

of a 30-year-old woman who had been in and out of prison. She would not turn up for jobs and each time returned to crime.

A report in the legal magazine Neue Justiz explained how the system should work, also taking Leipzig, East Germany's second city, as an example. In a factory making photograph albums, ex-convicts were training as skilled and semi-skilled workers.

The rehabilitation programme lasts up to a year and the courts, authorities and firms cooperate in its administration.

"It is in the first few days and weeks that someone needs the most help. Sometimes the little things are the most complicated," Dr. Meyer said.

"In prison, no one needs an alarm clock, but when he gets out he has to get himself up and go to

work. His firm might provide a clock to make sure he gets there."

During the rehabilitation period the offender might be obliged to see specialists: Sex offenders and alcoholics are likely to be sent to psychologists.

For re-offenders the courts can impose further measures for up to three years to ensure that an individual returns to a normal life in society. He can be made to keep a particular job, not to visit a certain place, or report regularly to the police.

If a firm suspects that someone under a rehabilitation programme is slipping back into crime they must tell the authorities. If he appears to be doing well he can be released early from conditions of probation or other restrictions.

The latter is the normal pattern, says Dr. Meyer. "The largest proportion of released prisoners find their way back to a normal life."

Portuguese television affected by drought

By Clare Lovell

Reuter

LISBON — Portuguese television, which almost nightly exports viewers to turn off lights to save energy, is following its own advice and shutting down early.

And city streets, used to neon lights and flashing signs, are now dim and lifeless after 10 p.m.

The government ordered the power cutback because lack of rain for the third year running threatens hydro-electric supplies, as well as drinking and irrigation water.

Energy Ministry officials say dams in the north of the country are only 42 per cent full, while those in the parched southern Algarve region are as low as 27 per cent of capacity.

"If we are not very careful with our use of water, we will have serious problems right up until November when the first winter rains come," said the secretary of state for energy, Joao Carvalho Carreira.

With no oil or natural gas of its own and very little coal, Portugal imports 85 per cent of its energy needs, relying heavily on domestic water to boost electricity supplies.

The drought of 1980-81 forced Portugal to import electricity heavily from France. Although it rained more last year, it was still not enough to fill depleted barrages.

Since last November the country has been unseasonably dry and meteorologists are not optimistic about rainfall prospects.

January was a particularly dry month, especially in the Algarve where rainfall was as low as 35 per cent of average.

Normal rainfall, the weatherman say, should resume in June when average falls are very low in Portugal anyway.

The Alentejo area south of Lisbon, a naturally arid region where land with its own water supply is at a premium, is already getting used to water cuts.

A short distance away a farmer waters his well-tended kitchen garden with supplies from his own artesian well. A huge pipe pumps plenty of water to a pen of fat, cosseted pigs.

Water authorities are worried that numerous private wells are tapping essential supplies and lowering the water table.

The drought problems have been compounded by a particularly cold snap this month, which may damage olive and fruit crops.

City water supplies present another problem. Water board officials say if the levels of the Tagus river get much lower this summer it could become difficult to purify Lisbon's water.

The Tagus, which rises in Spain and receives the waste of numerous industries along its banks, gets more and more polluted as its levels fall.

Another drought year of electricity shortages, crop failures and water cuts would severely knock Portugal's ailing economy.

Finance Minister Joao Salgueiro has repeatedly said the 1981 drought, involving huge food and electricity imports, was a principal factor in Portugal's record balance of payments deficits over the past two years.

A small agricultural nation with a total foreign debt of \$13 billion can ill afford another thirsty summer.

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HOME NEWS

Ibrahim briefs U.S. mayors on Israeli expansionist policy

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of American mayors at present on a visit to Jordan, Wednesday met Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim to discuss Middle East problems.

Mr. Ibrahim talked about Israel's expansionist designs represented by its expropriation of Arab land and the establishment of more illegal settlements. Mr. Ibrahim also briefed the mayors on the Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Palestine question and its endeavours to establish a just and durable peace in the region.

At a meeting with the Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti, the mayors were briefed on Jordan's programmes for the development of rural districts, aimed at improving general, social standards, and measures being taken to stem migration to the cities.

"Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands is creating social problems for the people of the area and aggravating the sufferings of many families," the minister said.

Mrs. Al Mufti also expressed a desire for the exchange of expertise and knowledge between Jordan and the United States in the sphere of social development affairs.

Later the mayors visited the University of Jordan where they met its President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. The mayors were given a description of the university's curricula and its academic development. They also saw a documentary film which portrayed the university's activities.



Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Hassan Ibrahim (fifth from right) briefs a delegation of American mayors on the hardships suffered by those Arabs subject to Israeli occupation (Petra photo)

Heavy rainfall boosts Jordan dam reserves

AMMAN (Petra) — The volume of rain over the past two months in Jordan has increased the amount of water stored in the King Talal Dam near Jerash by 46 million cubic metres, according to Mr. Zafer Al Alem, director of the dams department at the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

This season's rains have also stored four million cubic metres of water by Al Kafrum Dam in the Jordan Valley. 3.2 million cubic metres behind Ziqlab Dam near Irbid and nearly one million cubic metres of water in the Shu'ub Dam in the Jordan Valley.

All this water will be used to irrigate crops in the Jordan Valley, Mr. Al Alem added.

King Talal Dam, which became operational in 1979, is normally used for irrigation purposes, but surplus water over the past three years has been allowed to flow into the River Jordan.

He said that JVA teams have now started to raise the wall of the dam to boost its storage capacity by at least 34 million cubic metres to 80 million. The water stored in the artificial lake will be used to irrigate nearly 82,000 dunums of Jordan Valley land, the majority of it being utilised in the dry season, Mr. Al Alem said.

He said that precautionary measures are now being taken to ensure that the maximum water is available for the summer. Mr. Al Alem is also concerned that the water should be utilised for the good of the crops but that the Jordan Valley lands should not be flooded when the water is released.

Tax reduction insufficient to woo Pepsi Cola back into production

By Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The latest reduction in production tax for locally manufactured soft drinks implemented by the Ministry of Supply will not mean the re-appearance of Pepsi Cola on the market, nor is it likely to alleviate the present shortage of soft drinks in Jordan.

Recently, the Ministry of Supply, which controls the prices of all Jordanian products, announced an 80 per cent cut in the production tax of each box (24 bottles) of soft drinks, thus reducing the tax from 100 fils a box to 20 fils.

However, a Pepsi Cola company official said that, while the ministry's step was encouraging, it would not cover the losses faced by the company.

Pepsi Cola, one of the most popular soft drinks in Jordan, was closed down by its owners on Nov. 22, 1982, in a step that surprised thousands of Jordanians.

According to the Pepsi Cola factory manager, Mr. Isam Dimashqui, for the last year the company had been losing money and, not being able to sustain further losses, was obliged to cease production. "We had no more cash to run on in the bank," Mr. Dimashqui said.

"We had to borrow money to pay the production tax and eventually ran out of credit, so we decided to stop production," he said.

"All our prices are fixed by the government," the factory manager said. "We import all the ingredients from Pepsi Cola in the U.S. and we are not exempt from customs fees and import taxes," he continued.

Sugar, one of the essential ingredients of cola, is bought locally from the Ministry of Supply "at the regular prices fixed by the ministry," Mr. Dimashqui said.

According to the factory manager, the day the price of Pepsi was raised in January 1982 sales fell by 40 per cent while at the same time the prices of the ingredients kept increasing forcing the company to sustain a loss of 150 fils on each box. "By the time we closed the factory the company had lost JD 980,000," Mr. Dimashqui claimed.

The Pepsi Cola company had been operating for 20 years employing 200 permanent members of staff.

The factory manager said that the company informed the government about the losses and asked them to raise the price of Pepsi. "All through 1982 we tried to reach an agreement with the authorities over the price. The authorities promised to study and settle the matter, but nothing resulted from these efforts."

Mr. Dimashqui, who had just arrived from a meeting at the Ministry of Supply, said that the ministry had agreed to take away 80 fils from the production tax. "This will not cover our losses," said Mr. Dimashqui. "As we have estimated our losses to be 150 fils on each box of Pepsi." The company is asking for a price that covers the losses, and give the company a logical amount of profit.

Although production has stopped since Nov. 22, the company has retained its employees, paying them their salaries with the hope that a suitable agreement can be reached with the government. As long as talks continue the company has hopes that a favourable settlement can be reached enabling production to resume once again.

The Ministry of Supply refused to comment on the issue but the Jordan Times has discovered that the ministry believes that the 80 fils reduction in the production tax is enough to leave the company a reasonable margin of profit.

In the meantime it is the consumer who suffers as Pepsi Cola continues to be missing from the shops in Jordan.

Recruitment seminar to begin in Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan will participate in a two-week seminar on recruiting teaching staff for Arab universities which will open at King Saud University in Riyadh on Feb. 26.

A university spokesman said that Dr. Marwan Kamal, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Abdul Rahman Adas, dean of the Faculty of Education and Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, dean of the Faculty of Scientific Research will represent the university at the seminar in which professors and teachers from most Arab universities will take part.

Working papers on the subject of staff recruitment and the duties performed by university teachers will be submitted by the three Jordanian professors.



YARMOUK MILITARY AWARDS: University President Adnan Badran (second from left) makes a speech during the ceremony Wednesday which honoured those students at Yarmouk University who excelled in the military science course (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dudin meets British trade delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting British trade delegation held talks here Wednesday with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Dudin. They reviewed the agricultural situation in Jordan and prospects for British aid to develop the country's agricultural sector.

Tunisian trade officials arrive in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A Tunisian economic delegation is due in Amman Saturday for a three-day visit to Jordan. Its members will meet Jordanian officials and representatives of the private sector to discuss effective ways of developing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The delegation will be made up of two senior officials from the Tunisian Ministry of National Economy.

Asfour arrives in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour arrived here Wednesday to attend the 34th meeting of the Arab Social and Economic Council which is due to open at the Arab League Headquarters Thursday. Mr. Asfour is accompanied by several officials from his ministry and the Jordanian ambassador to Tunisia.

Soviet trade unionists call at SSC

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing trade unions in the Soviet Union Tuesday called at the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and met its Deputy Director Ahmad Masa'deh. The delegation members were briefed on the SSC's programmes and the protection it offers Jordanian labourers and their families.

Labour team prepares for pan-Arab conference in March

AMMAN (Petra) — A special team from the Ministry of Labour is currently making preparations for the Arab Labour Ministers Conference due to open here on March 6, according to Labour Under-Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jabbar. He said that Tunisia, North Yemen and Iraq have sent the names of their delegations to the conference which will use Jordan as its venue for the first time.

A delegation from the International Labour Organisation, headed by Dr. Saleh Burqan, will attend the conference which will be held at ministerial level, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said.

Jordan's oldest woman dies

AMMAN (Petra) — A woman, believed to be the oldest in Jordan, died Wednesday at the age of 161. Mrs. Nofa Sa'd Khalaf Al Subeishi died in Amman, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Murder suspect apprehended

AMMAN (J.T.) — A man suspected of murdering the owner of a hotel in Amman last week has been apprehended in Egypt, according to Al Rai newspaper Wednesday.

It said the man, Azzam Abdul Salam, was arrested by the Egyptian authorities following a Jordanian request for his extradition. The arrest took place at Cairo airport upon the man's arrival soon after the killing of the owner of Al Faiha hotel in downtown Amman, the paper said.

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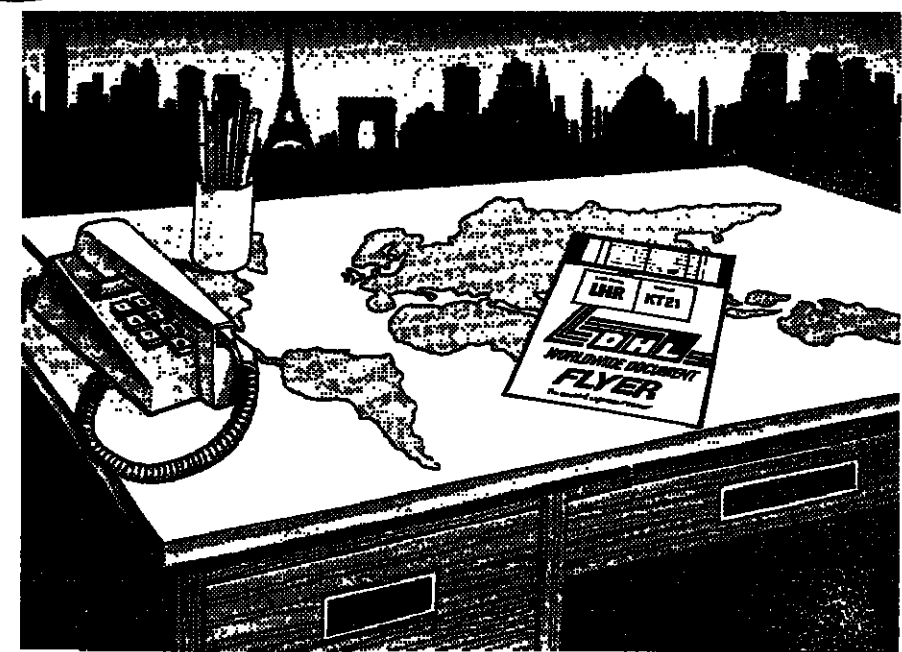
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Managing Editor: JAWAD AHMAD
Business Manager: JAWAD AHMAD
Advertising Manager: JAWAD AHMAD
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What to do with peace plans

NOT unexpectedly, the Palestine National Council (PNC) has ended its nine-day debate in Algiers with the endorsement of the Arab plan but without accepting to consider U.S. President Reagan's initiative as "a sound basis for a permanent solution" in the Middle East.

As the Arab plan, formulated at the Fes summit conference in Morocco last September, was qualified as the minimum acceptable and its adoption made contingent upon the continuation of Palestinian armed struggle against Israel, the decision to reject the Reagan plan, by the same token, also seems to have been taken half-heartedly.

Ostensibly, preserving unity and coherence among the different Palestinian groups that make up the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was behind the PNC's compromise solution which was tailored to defeat nobody in the Palestinian camp. In reality, however, a great deal more of compromise would be needed if a meaningful peace process, with active Palestinian participation, is to get started before it is too late.

Although we would have liked the PNC to be

more realistic and forthcoming about what could and could not be achieved at this stage, we are optimistic that what was agreed upon in Algiers is only a starting negotiating position, beyond which there will be clearer and more serious Palestinian moves to regain the land and to put an end to Israel's expansionist plans in this area as top priorities. We are also confident that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, whose mandate to lead the Palestinian struggle through this difficult period has been unanimously extended, would continue to see in the Reagan proposals those positive elements that the PNC chose to overlook, somewhat unjustifiably.

In any event, the several weeks that lie ahead are going to be crucial and vitally important not only to us in the Middle East but also to global peace and stability. Should we lose sight of reality and run after unattainable slogans, the risks would indeed be incalculable.

If somebody will kill the last chance for peace, let Menachem Begin do it. Arabs and Palestinians have better causes.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Palestinian front shows PLO's commitment to resistance

The decision taken by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to form a national Palestinian front inside the occupied territories is regarded as an important step in view of present circumstances. This move is bound to escalate the Palestinian political as well as military struggle against the Zionists. The implications of this decision mean that: 1. The Palestinian land will form a basic area for continued resistance activity, placing an additional drain on Israel. 2. The political struggle is by no means a substitute for military struggle, in fact the two complement each other. 3. Military and political struggle can together be used as a trump card by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its quest for a peace settlement.

This we see that Israel's dream of destroying the PLO's political and military power following the battle of Beirut has, as ever, been frustrated. This brave new step by the PLO leadership will undoubtedly be considered in Israel as a sign that the Palestinians wish to make peace from a position of strength and that they mean to counter Israel's arrogant self-centredness in the region.

Al Dustour: Reagan's security offer a new sign of U.S. activity

In a bid to foil Israel's plans further to protract negotiations over its withdrawal from Lebanon, Washington has declared its readiness to offer guarantees to safeguard Israel's northern borders once its troops have left Lebanese territory. President Reagan's offer, following weeks of fruitless negotiations, is an indication of the degree to which Washington is participating in the negotiations. The assertion of such an active role can only frustrate Israel which wants to see the United

States act only as an observer enabling it to dictate its terms over Lebanon. President Reagan's offer can also be regarded as an implicit warning to Israel not to pursue its demands for early warning stations and a demilitarized zone in Lebanon as conditions for a withdrawal. Such demands will lead nowhere while sabotaging any chance of a genuine peace. True peace can only be achieved when Lebanon regains full sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rejectionism on the wane

It was interesting to follow the recent debate at the Palestine National Council (PNC) sessions in Algiers. As expected, the extremist and rejectionist elements have begun to lose their influence, as the emptiness of their rhetoric has demonstrated.

The PNC spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahaman asked the extremist leaders at the PNC meetings about the reasons behind Syrian and Libyan failures to come to the aid of the Palestinians during the invasion of Lebanon. The extremists have continuously rejected all peaceful initiatives and have prevented any flexibility on the part of the PNC, in

some cases paralysing the PNC's activities. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has said that the Palestinians must now seek political solutions because it is clear that the Arab countries are incapable of fighting another war, and because 1.5 million Palestinians, under the hardship of Israeli occupation, have expressed a strong desire for peace.

Therefore, the Palestine Liberation Organisation cannot afford to shut the door in the face of all peaceful political initiatives.

The result of a fatal eruption of long term ethnic tension

By Bernard Melusky
 Reuter

NEW DELHI — The slaughter in the steamy and fertile central Brahmaputra river valley of India's northeastern state of Assam is the result of a fatal eruption of long-term ethnic tensions. But the direct cause of massacres after two weeks of growing violence is the deep political and communal split over an election that is tearing the state apart.

The problem of local Assamese antipathy to the stream of foreign settlers had defied solution by successive Indian governments. But it has exploded most devastatingly in the face of the present Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi.

She called elections which militant local Assamese groups said they would boycott and disrupt. What began as a seemingly straightforward confrontation between an administration determined to hold the elections and militants vehemently opposed to them has blown up into a complex spiral of violence involving various groups.

In the worst episode so far, tribespeople opposed to the elections slaughtered at least 500 Muslim immigrants last Friday, officials said.

Other clashes have involved Hindu Assamese and pro-election

tribal groups. Tribesmen have fought Assamese as well as immigrants. Hindus as well as Muslims.

The motives appear to include unfilled demands for an autonomous tribal district, resentment by Hindus of tribal encroachment into forest land, tribal protests against immigrants for pushing them out of previously settled lands and plain political tension related to the controversial poll. Many deaths in the worst election violence experienced in independent India have come from police bullets, fired to protect police or candidates from violence mobs. The Assamese leaders of the anti-foreign agitation are demanding the disenfranchisement and eviction from the state of some 3.5 million people they say are illegal immigrants. The government says the figure is closer to a million.

The militants' main target are Bengali Muslims, who have been crossing the borders into Assam since the turn of the century but in growing numbers since 1971 when the war which created Bangladesh from the former East Pakistan also created millions of refugees.

Sensitive issue

Immigration has been a sensitive issue ever since the early

years of the century when India's British rulers began introducing Bengalis to work as their clerks, tribal workers for their tea gardens and peasants from Bengal to work the land.

At that time, indigenous Assamese were an easy-going people with a philosophy summed up in the local phrase "lahe, lahe" (slowly, slowly). They were also said to have been hospitable to the early migrants, but later became suspicious and resentful of Bengali dominance in government and employment.

"It is sad but by no means impossible that in another 30 years the Sibsagar district (in the east) will be the only part of Assam in which the Assamese will find himself at home," a British census official wrote in 1931.

Now the Assamese say they fear they would lose effective political power in the state if elections are held on the basis of the present electoral rolls swelled by immigrants. Student and political groups have launched a movement to evict illegal immigrants in 1979. Over 300 people died in unrest spread over three years — a grim foretaste of what was to come this month.

Mrs. Gandhi called elections after the breakdown of negotiations last month between her

government and the Assamese militants. The government is willing to resettle immigrants who arrived after 1971 but not to disenfranchise or remove those who arrived in the decade before for humanitarian reasons.

The prime minister called the elections because she could not further extend a one-year period of direct constitutional rule without a constitutional amendment. Speaking to members of her own party last week as opposition attacks on her decision grew in intensity, she said: "We cannot go back on what was thought right for the people of Assam."

Major non-Communist opposition parties have made clear they considered it wrong to hold elections. They say the government has mishandled the situation and failed to protect life and property. An estimated 70,000 paramilitary forces from outside the state were drafted to Assam to keep order during the elections.

But many of these heavily-armed forces were pinned down to actually supervising the vote, while Assamese Hindus, Muslim immigrants and tribal groups fought and killed each other with such primitive weapons as spears and bows and arrows.

RED & BLACK

By Jawad Ahmad

Oil prices will go down

The question that stuns the mind at this stage is why the price of oil does not go down even further? How can some oil producing countries hesitate in lowering the price and get away with it?

The answer to this question rests on a number of considerations. First, OPEC and its future, demand for oil, supply of oil, and the reserve position of the countries involved.

OPEC is a cartel which was hailed as the first among developing countries to exert any bargaining influence on the rich and advanced world. Yet, with the soaring prices of energy (1979 and 1980 in particular), many developing countries thought that OPEC was not on their side.

Due to a number of reasons, and the oil price is one of them, the world economy tumbled from inflation to recession. The hardest hit were some OPEC members who began to act individually and myopically according to their own self-interests.

Among the reasons which led to this dismay are the grandiose projects of war and peace carried out by countries like Iran, Nigeria, Indonesia, Libya, etc.

OPEC has not fallen. Nor is it likely to. But it certainly faces a severe storm. At this stage it is in a state of dismay and its strength is way below that of the heydays of the period 1974-81.

The demand for oil is now low because of the strenuous conservation efforts and because of the current recessionary mood of the world economy. It is not expected that the demand for oil will pick up again before 1984.

The supply of oil has gone down tangibly, but energy sources have declined only a little bit. The meaningful supply concept here is not the amounts of oil pumped, but the amounts available at the disposal of importing countries

and the amounts stored by oil marketing companies. This supply, relative to the level of demand, is not bad—and may be in excess for sometime to come.

With the exception of Saudi Arabia, all other oil-producing countries seem to be in a less than comfortable reserve position. Some of them are heavily in debt, such as Nigeria. Others such as the Gulf countries, are worried about the future prospects and there are others such as Iran and Libya, whose reserve position worries the world were it to improve.

The tough position of certain countries will call for a uniform position. Thus prices will force each other down until they reach the \$20 limit by the end of this year. The Gulf states and Saudi Arabia might not need reserves now for their own needs, but how long can they withstand the pressure of clients and the vanishing prestige in the world economy?

Evren firmly established in a soldier-politician role

By Hugh Carnegie
 Reuter

ANKARA — When Turkey returns to civilian government later this year after three years under military rule, head of state General Kenan Evren will be firmly established in a role he appears to relish, that of soldier-politician. On a trip to the eastern frontier region earlier this month to watch military exercises, General Evren slept and ate in army quarters and seemed to revel in the company of fellow soldiers.

But the stocky, silver-haired president, whose declared mission is to lead Turkey to a stable future from the chaos that plagued it in the 1970s, also has a deft political touch. He took time off from manoeuvres to visit Agri, a city near the Soviet border, and soon had a boisterous crowd-roaring in approval as he showed sympathy for their local unemployment problem and pointed proudly to government action in the form of a sugar refinery being built nearby with public funds. He was nearly mobbed as he pushed his way to his car to leave.

With such displays of public support greeting him in most places he visits, General Evren has apparently concluded there is no hurry for him to forsake his uniform and position as chief of staff for a purely civilian role.

The general, 65 this year, was elected president for seven years under a new constitution approved last November by a majority of over 90 per cent. He has promised general elections this autumn, barring unforeseen circumstances, but has so far given no indication of when, or whether, he will quit the army.

In September 1980, amid mounting political violence which had already claimed some 5,000 lives, and with parliament paralysed by

minority governments and factional bickering, General Evren led a military takeover to remedy the situation.

The coup was met with almost universal relief by Turks increasingly alarmed by violence. General Evren, who as chief of staff automatically became head of state, quickly assumed the role of saviour and father-figure. He promised a return to democracy as soon as Turkey was back on the rails, and a return to barracks for the military. But the man who said publicly that he came to power only by chance has since ensured he will be the nation's dominating figure until the end of the decade.

Before the referendum, General Evren made it clear that although political violence had been quashed, he and his fellow officers had to keep their hands on the helm a while longer. He also banned any campaigning for a rejection of the new constitution, under which he will have executive power to curb any excesses in government and parliament and emergency powers if he feels security is deteriorating.

His four colleagues on the present ruling National Security Council will remain in office in influential advisory roles. These measures betrayed General Evren's deep distrust of politicians. He had frequently lambasted them as self-seekers who allowed the country to slip into anarchy before the military takeover, the third in Turkey in 20 years.

All political parties were abolished after the 1980 coup, and new rules being drawn up virtually bar any party other than the mainstream Conservative right and Social Democratic left.

In addition, about 100 former party leaders, including former prime ministers Suleyman Demirel (Conservative) and Bulent Ecevit (Social Democratic) have been banned for 10 years.

The general's own political creed is indistinct, beyond a strong nationalism based on that of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the military officer who emerged after the World War I to found the Turkish Republic, abandoning the shattered remains of the Ottoman

empire and the rule of the sultan.

The figure of the late Ataturk (father Turk), a staunch nationalist who scorned the extremes of left and right that abounded in his day, retains a powerful influence in Turkey. General Evren, the son of a Muslim imam, follows Ataturk in attacking discrimination against women, passing in crowds to draw the scarf or veil from a girl's head and saying such attitudes are not laid down in the Koran.

In his speech in Agri, a traditionally strongly Muslim area, he obliquely criticised religious objections to birth control, saying Turkey's high birth rate contributed to unemployment. Throughout his visit, he also stopped locals from greeting him with the customary live sacrifice of sheep or goats. His most persistent message is that the coup was launched to save democracy, not to squash it, and nothing engenders him more than foreign criticism of his regime.

Western European countries in particular have expressed concern at the military's human rights record and scepticism over its commitment to restore democracy. The European Community has withheld more than \$600 million in aid, and there have been moves to oust Turkey from the Council of Europe.

General Evren reacts by telling outsiders not to interfere, dismissing critics as enemies of Turkey or ignorant of it. When the human rights group Amnesty International charged that 70 people had died under torture was being stopped.

The general insists that security measures which jailed some 30,000 people and tried them by the hundreds were needed to halt violence. He says there will be no amnesty after the elections. In the meantime, General Evren, a widower with three married daughters, is keeping his military cap firmly on.

In Agri, with a glass of strong Turkish raki in hand, he chatted easily at a cocktail party in the officers' mess and puffed contentedly on a cigar as he watched rousing folk dancing after dinner.

Apart from such forays, he remains a remote figure.

The political scene in West Germany

By Geoffrey Atkins
 Reuter

BONN — Most people would agree that democracy is alive and well in West Germany today. And yet since last October the country has been run by a government that was never elected. Four ministers who were in the cabinet of a left-centre coalition government seem equally at home as part of a right-centre government. Such are the quirks in West Germany's unique system of parliamentary democracy in the run-up to general elections on March 6 which are the most unusual — and many say the most important — in its postwar history.

The political scene is dominated by four main parties: The Conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is the party of the present Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Its Bavarian wing comes under the banner of the Christian Social Union (CSU) and its right-wing leader Franz-Josef Strauss, who is also the state's premier. Although the CSU is usually a loyal ally, there is no love lost between Mr. Kohl and Mr. Strauss, who is reported to want to become foreign minister and vice-chancellor.

"I don't care who becomes chancellor under me," the ambitious Mr. Strauss is said to have remarked in private.

The main opposition is the Social Democratic Party (SPD) whose candidate for chancellor is Hans-Jochen Vogel. The SPD was in power for 13 years until the end of last September, when the fourth party, the Free Democrats (FDP), switched coalition partners and brought down the left-centre government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The tiny FDP, with only about 80,000 members, has for long held the balance of power in the West German Bundestag (lower house) and enjoyed an influence far out of proportion to its size. It has only 53 seats and yet hold four key ministries.

After the 1980 elections, it joined the Social Democrats, who won 218 seats, to form a coalition that outvoted the Conservatives with their 226 seats. When the FDP switched sides and went over to the Conservatives, this would in most democracies have resulted in the automatic fall of the government and new elections.

But under the West German constitution, designed to protect the new democracy from the parliamentary chaos of the pre-Nazi era, parliament cannot dissolve itself.

Without any say

Many outraged voters who had voted for the Social Democrats thus found themselves under a conservative-led government, without having any say in the matter.

Chancellor Kohl, who immediately promised new elections but refused to resign, took the only step left to him: Although he had clear working majority in the Bundestag, he deliberately lost a vote of confidence on Dec. 17 in which government deputies abstained.

Last week, with polling day less than three weeks away, the nation's highest court cleared the way for elections by rejecting a petition from four deputies who argued that the confidence vote was contrived and dissolution of parliament therefore unconstitutional.

According to opinion polls, the CDU/CSU alliance enjoys an average lead of about five per cent over the Social Democrats. Most

forecast political oblivion for the Free Democrats under Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher who, the polls say, are unlikely to get the five per cent of the vote necessary to get seats in the Bundestag.

Aside from Mr. Genscher, this would remove from power Economics Minister Count Otto Lambdort, Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl and Justice Minister Hans Engelhardt.

A majority of polls predicts a new fourth power in parliament — the radical Greens, which started out as an ecological movement but has attracted strong support for its opposition to nuclear weapons and atomic power in general. The prospect of the SPD and the Greens winning enough seats to prevent the Conservatives from getting an overall majority has sounded alarm bells in the political establishment.

It is argued that the Greens, who have pledged complete reform of the capitalist system, would make the country ungovernable because they could never consistently support either of the major parties.

The Conservatives have warned against what they call a "red-green alliance," in which Mr. Vogel would have to rely on Green votes to be elected chancellor.

Apart from this possible result, most political commentators see two likely outcomes from the polls, in which almost 90 per cent of the electorate is expected to vote:

— There will be a two-party parliament, with the Conservative alliance of Chancellor Kohl remaining in power and the Social Democrats in opposition.

— The Free Democrats may recover to get five per cent of the vote and retain their coalition with the CDU/CSU.

In the personal popularity stakes, Mr. Vogel has been running slightly ahead of Chancellor Kohl, who is seen by many voters as an uninspired, colourless figure. Mr. Vogel, a relatively obscure politician who was the SPD choice after the shock decision of Helmut Schmidt not to run for office, speaks good English and has won top marks for his performances during visits to Washington and Moscow.

The election campaign is being dominated by unemployment, which hit a record figure of almost 2.5 million in January. The government faces the uncomfortable position of more record figures for February being published just days before polling day.

The Conservatives blame the jobless figures on past Social Democratic administrations, while the SPD says the Conservatives' free market philosophies have made the situation worse.

The other main issue is the possible stationing of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in West Germany later this year if U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva fail. Mr. Vogel has said he will do everything possible to avoid deployment, but Mr. Kohl has said the missiles must be introduced if Moscow refuses to budge during present disarmament negotiations.

The West German electoral system is a combination of direct election and proportional representation. Each person has two votes — the first for candidate and the second for a party. The second vote determines allocation of seats in the Bundestag. Apart from the 497 full deputies, there are a further 19 nominated from West Berlin, but under an agreement among the four occupying powers they have limited voting rights.



SPORTS

16 teams from 6 continents drawn

Australia, Mexico to kick off World Youth Soccer Championship in June

MEXICO CITY (R) — Australia and Mexico were drawn here Tuesday night to kick off the second World Youth Football Championship in Mexico City in June.

The draw for 16 teams from six continents placed Scotland, the European Youth Soccer Champions, and South Korea in the same group for the June 2-19 tournament.

"I'm sure our boys will be quite nervous playing the opening match against the home team in the mammoth Aztec stadium," Sir Arthur George, the President of the Australian Soccer Association, told Reuters. "It is quite a responsibility."

The draw, watched by 1,500 spectators in the national medical centre auditorium, drew mixed reactions from representatives of other countries taking part in the tournament, to be played in seven Mexican cities.

The United States, anxious to boost its soccer image in the tournament, was surprised to be

drawn in the same group with Poland and Uruguay, as well as the Ivory Coast.

"It is a strange coincidence," Kurt Lamm, the secretary of the U.S. Soccer Federation, said. "I think the draw was honest, but we also drew Poland and Uruguay as competitors two years ago in the first youth championship."

Argentina, considered a strong team after winning the championship in Tokyo in 1979, will face China, Czechoslovakia and Austria in their group.

The Soviet team, fresh from their victory last November in the second Joao Havelange invitation tournament in Acapulco, will face Nigeria, the Netherlands and Brazil in their group.

The draw was as follows:
Group A — Australia, Mexico, Scotland, South Korea.
Group B — United States, Poland, Uruguay, Ivory Coast.
Group C — Argentina, China, Czechoslovakia, Austria.
Group D — Soviet Union, Nigeria, Netherlands, Brazil.

The final will be played in Mexico City on June 19.

Encouraged by their strong showing last November in the final rounds of the Havelange tournament, officials of Mexico's team are hoping they will make it to the quarter-finals in

June, though they fear the challenge from Scotland.

Jeremy Walker, in charge of Scotland's team, admitted that it would be difficult to play against Mexico, with the advantage of being the home side.

But he didn't agree that Group A was the toughest section to be in. "We are in a difficult group, but no group is harder than any other," he said.

West Germany, winners of the first championship in Australia two years ago, failed to qualify for this year's finals.

Two youth tournaments had been staged previously, the Soviet Union winning in Tunisia in 1977 when entry was by invitation not qualification, and Argentina in Tokyo in 1979 when qualification was determined on a knock-out basis.

But the International Football Federation (FIFA) waited until the 1981 championships in Australia before elevating the status of the tournament to a championship.

Los Angeles (R) — The 88,000-seat coliseum in Los Angeles may lose the right to stage the major events of the 1984 Olympic Games if a controversy over a row of luxurious boxes is not resolved, a senior games official said Wednesday.

Other Olympic officials said earlier that no outsiders would be allowed to receive proceeds from ticket sales.

Mr. Usher said the Olympic Committee had already entered into talks with the Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena, 20 miles (30 km) outside the city, regarding the possibility of staging the opening and closing ceremonies—major highlights of the games—there.

The Rose Bowl seats 100,000 people, but does not have track and field facilities, he said, adding there were other possible sites for the athletic events.

The controversy is centred on Al Davis, owner of an American football team, Los Angeles Raiders, who was given the right to build 150 boxes round the rim of the stadium as part of his price for bringing the Raiders to the city, Mr. Usher said.

Mr. Davis was to receive 75 per cent of the proceeds from the boxes, including reservations for the summer Olympic Games, Mr. Usher said. The remainder was to go to the coliseum, which is owned by the city, he added.

"In the opinion of scores of lawyers, this agreement is a complete

Controversy may hamper

Olympic Games ceremonies

breach of the contract between the coliseum and us made over two years ago," Mr. Usher said.

It's absolutely and completely tragic, but it could happen," the executive vice president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee, Harry Usher, told a press conference.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games, and the track and field events are due to be staged in the coliseum, in the city centre.

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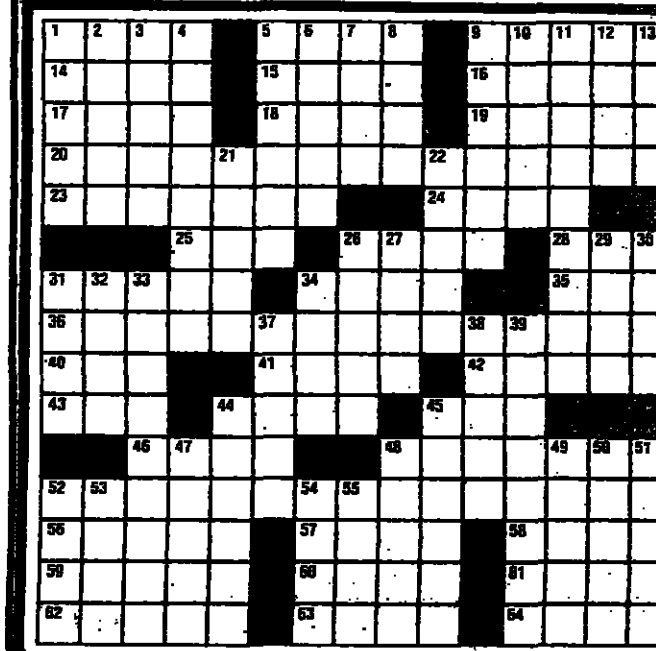
"In the opinion of scores of lawyers, this agreement is a complete

THE Daily Crossword by N.E. Campbell

ACROSS	25 Commercial	45 Otherwise	13 Coaster
1 Young oyster	26 Singing brothers	46 Harbor	21 Gandhi's land
5 German philosopher	28 Surpass	52 Amer. Can. waterway	22 Perform an action, old style
9 Fleet elements	31 Shinto temple gateway	56 An Oscar	26 Bellowing
14 Hope (for)	34 CED word	57 Kind of year	27 Old title of respect
15 To — (precisely)	35 Virginia waterway	58 — avis	29 Baking chamber
16 Of punishment	40 Assist	60 Unclothed	30 Sassy
17 Blister drug	41 Furniture designer	61 Small case	31 Autocrat
18 Wheel hub	42 Concerning	62 Drying cloth	32 Buckeye State
19 Bandsman	43 Rogers or Acuff	64 Fender mark	33 Orange
20 N.Y. Conn. waterway	44 Jewish month	1 Down	34 Norse collection of poems
23 Timeless	45 Shingle letters for a dentist	2 Airman	37 Consumer advocate
24 Atlanta sports arena		3 In record	38 Detecting instrument
		4 Against — (displeasing)	39 Stimulated
		5 Sunflower State	44 Equally
		6 In any respect	45 Farther down
		7 Leningrad's river	47 Scoop
		8 Numerical suffix	48 Egg-shaped
		9 Muscular contractions	50 TV fare, sometimes
		10 Egret	51 Characteristic
		11 Possessing insight	52 Sharp blow
		12 Distress	53 Marshal
			54 Napoleon's exile
			55 A tide

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Young oyster	1 Down
5 German philosopher	2 Airman
9 Fleet elements	3 In record
14 Hope (for)	4 Against — (displeasing)
15 To — (precisely)	5 Sunflower State
16 Of punishment	6 In any respect
17 Blister drug	7 Leningrad's river
18 Wheel hub	8 Numerical suffix
19 Bandsman	9 Muscular contractions
20 N.Y. Conn. waterway	10 Egret
23 Timeless	11 Possessing insight
24 Atlanta sports arena	12 Distress



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Winitsky defeats Clerc

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Third-seeded Jose Luis Clerc of Argentina and eighth-seeded Peter McNamara of Australia followed top seed Ivan Lendl out of a \$300,000 World Championship Tennis tournament Tuesday night.

Van Winitsky, of the U.S., pulling off what he called "the best win of his career" beat Clerc 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 after American Peter Fleming eliminated McNamara 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Lendl crashed out of the tournament on Monday when he was beaten by fellow-Czechoslovak

Pavel Slozil. Second-seeded Guillermo Vilas of Argentina plays Britain's Buster Mottram in the second round. Clerc never looked sharp in his match, which was stopped twice by rain.

"I think anybody could have beaten me today. I wasn't feeling anything on the court," said the Argentine.

Clerc failed to serve effectively, losing his serve three times in the final set and double-faulting twice, once on match point.

Fleming is best known as John McEnroe's doubles partner.

Japan's Watanabe to make third defence of WBA title

TSU, Japan (R) — Jiro Watanabe of Japan will make the third defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA) super-flyweight boxing title here Thursday not knowing quite what he is up against.

Watanabe, a 27-year-old Karate expert, meets Luis Ibanez, a Peruvian of greater experience, who has a better fight record and is two years younger.

And Watanabe, who has been unable to watch his opponent in action, admits: "I feel a little uneasy about not knowing what kind of boxer Ibanez is."

His handlers have been unable to obtain a video-film of Ibanez in action from South America, so the 25-year-old challenger could pack a few surprises for Watanabe.

His record is certainly impressive. He has won 33 of his bouts, 24 by knockout, drawn one and lost one. Watanabe has fought 18 times for 17 wins and a loss.

Yet Watanabe remains favourite to retain the crown he won from Panama's Rafael Pedroza on points in April last year.

He defended the title twice last year, knocking out Argentina's Gustavo Ballas in the ninth round in July and former world flyweight champion Shoji Oguma of Japan in the 12th round in November.

Ibanez, whose wins have not been over ranked WBA or World Boxing Council (WBC) fighters, said: "I plan to knock out Watanabe in the early rounds. I feel no pressure although this will be my first important fight."

Connors advances to second round of \$255,000 tournament

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Top-seeded Jimmy Connors advanced to the second round of a \$255,000 tennis tournament here Tuesday with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over unseeded Sammy Giammalva.

Connors had little trouble defeating Giammalva, a 19-year-old from Houston, Texas. Connors, the 1982 Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion who is also ranked number one in the world, had a triple match-point advantage in the deciding set before a Giammalva backhand went wide to end the match.

In other first-round singles play

Tuesday, second-seeded Yannick Noah of France scored a quick 6-1, 6-2 victory over Damir Keretic of West Germany. Robert Van't Hof beat Brian Gottfried, 7-5, 6-2. Eliot Teltscher beat Bruce Foxworth, 6-3, 6-4, and Henri Leconte of France beat Stan Smith, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Tom Gullickson beat Mike Leach, 6-3, 6-4. Russell Simpson of New Zealand beat Bernie Mitton of South Africa, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Victor Amaya beat Jacques Manant, 6-2, 6-4. And Skalk van der Meer of South Africa beat Bruce Manson, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

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Location: Shmeisani
Please call: Tel. 667568, Amman after 10 a.m.

AUSTRALIANS

ELECTION DAY IS 5 MARCH 1983

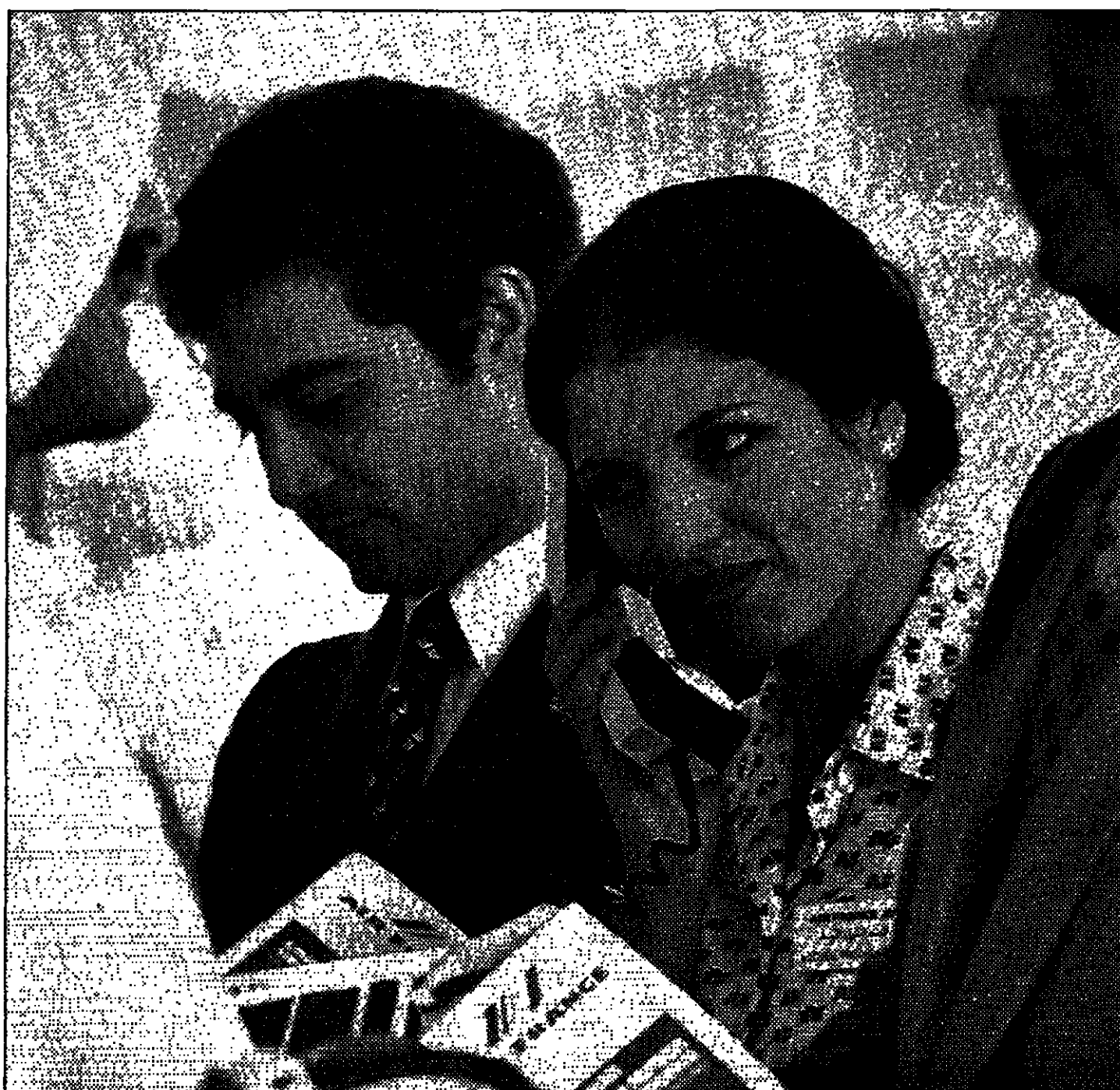
A General Election for the Australian House of Representatives and Senate will be held on 5 March 1983.

APPLY NOW FOR A POSTAL VOTE

If you are enrolled on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll and you are travelling or are temporarily resident in Jordan and will not be returning to Australia before Election Day you may apply for a Postal Vote.

Postal Voting Facilities and a list of candidates are available at the Australian Embassy, between 4th and 5th Circles, Jabal Amman, Telephone 43246.

REMEMBER VOTING IS COMPULSORY.



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ECONOMY

Venezuela readopts exchange controls

ACAS (R) — Venezuela has reduced exchange controls to a flight of capital out of the country.

Announcing the decision after a night cabinet meeting, Finance Minister Arturo Sosa said the government will also establish a new exchange rate for the bolivar and will extend a suspension on foreign currency sales till Friday.

Sosa said the controls, last 18 years ago, were a result of capital outflows and were necessary to enable Venezuela to meet its foreign obligations.

The government suspended foreign currency sales on Monday and Tuesday after foreign currency outflows rose to nearly \$150 million daily in the latter part of last week.

Mr. Sosa said details of the controls would be announced in the next few days but the existing rate of 4.3 bolivars to the dollar would remain for foreign debt repayments, essential imports and the oil and iron industries.

For all other transactions, the government would either fix a new rate or allow the bolivar to float.

Venezuela ran into problems late in 1982 when banks began to withhold credit and the government faced the prospect of having to repay some of its \$8.7 billion short term debt.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities declined reflecting renewed uncertainties over oil prices after the inconclusive Gulf oil producers meeting which ended in Riyadh Wednesday, dealers said.

The inflationary implications of the water workers pay settlement also weighed on the market, dealers added, and at 1500 Wednesday the F.T. index was off 7.1 at 635.3.

Oils lost ground on renewed selling but leaders finished slightly over the day's lows. Gold shares extended Tuesday's losses by as much as \$8 after the bullion price fell sharply again, dealers said.

Government bonds ended with net rises ranging to ¼ point on an irregular trend. The stronger New York bond market and a small rally in sterling helped this sector, dealers said.

The heavily oversubscribed Superdrug Stores made its debut closed at 271 after a high-low of 300-270 compared with an earlier price of 175p.

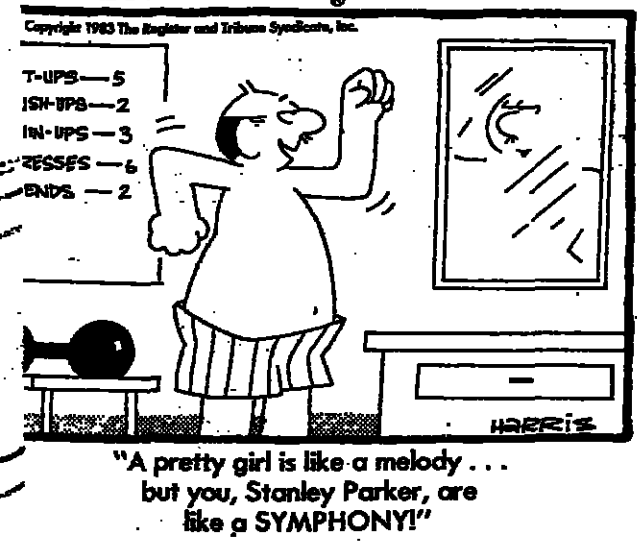
B.P. was 6p lower at 296 and in other oils, Shell fell 16p to 408 and Ultramar shed 20 to 449. ICI and Plessey eased 4p and 5p respectively ahead of results due Thursday.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for trading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

sterling	1.5167/77	U.S. dollars
U.S. dollar	1.2301/04	Canadian dollars
	2.4230/40	West German marks
	2.6775/85	Dutch guilders
	2.0340/60	Swiss francs
	47.70/75	Belgian francs
	6.8675/85	French francs
	1398.50/1399.50	Italian lire
	235.10/25	Japanese yen
	7.4420/70	Swedish crowns
	7.1460/1510	Norwegian crowns
	8.5975/6050	Danish crowns
ounce of gold	476.50/477.50	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF.



UNBLENDED THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four jumbles, letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

JOPHO
 O _ _ _
 J _ _ _

AGEM
 A _ _ _
 G _ _ _

EDENE
 E _ _ _
 D _ _ _

XCOIB
 X _ _ _
 C _ _ _

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VITAL OUNCE SQUIRM CANYON
 Answer: What the guy who spent most of his life in jail must have had plenty of "CONVICTIONS"

EEC asks U.S., Japan to take next steps in easing trade tensions

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community has asked the United States and Japan to take the next steps in easing trade tensions fuelled by stiff competition for shrinking world markets, diplomats said.

The Community opted at a two-day meeting of its 10 foreign ministers for conciliation, calling on the U.S. for self-restraint to avoid hurting the Western alliance and endorsing a trade deal with Japan that could lead to a liberalisation of Tokyo's trading practices, they added.

The call to Washington, addressed to secretary of state Mr. George Shultz, echoed his own publicly expressed fears that trade confrontation might damage the alliance.

The diplomats said at the close of the meeting Tuesday night the Community now hoped Mr. Shultz would respond by putting a stop to sales such as that of one million tonnes of highly subsidised wheat flour to Egypt.

They said the sale, from huge U.S. stocks, virtually closed the Egyptian market to European exporters who previously provided most of Egypt's flour needs.

Japan has also been asked to prove its willingness to ease trade tensions by opening up its markets to European goods to help reduce the Community's \$1.4 billion annual trade deficit.

The deal worked out in Tokyo by the Community's executive commission covered 10 specific industrial products which have suffered most from Japanese competition in Europe, including cars, video tape recorders and other electronic equipment.

But ministers said after Tuesday's meeting the three-year deal was only a first step towards meeting European grievances.

An entry for European exporters to the lucrative Japanese market was a necessary second step, they added.

The Community will monitor very closely Japan's adherence to the Tokyo self-restraint accord and its liberalisation of its import practices, they said.

Japan has been given until July to satisfy the Community that progress was possible and no further action was needed, diplomats said.

To underline its determination to protect its own interests the Community will continue to pursue complaints against both Japan and the U.S. under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, they added.

Andropov calls for 'economic reform'

MOSCOW (R) — Communist Party leader Mr. Yuri Andropov said in an article published Wednesday that changes in the way the Soviet economy was run were long overdue.

Mr. Andropov, writing in the party's theoretical journal "Kommunist," avoided the phrase "economic reform" but indicated that this was what he had in mind.

His article, which marked the centenary of the death of Karl Marx, said the Soviet economy was operating "not too successfully."

"What is holding us up? Why are we not getting the right returns from huge capital investments? Why are the achievements of science and technology being brought into production at an unsatisfactory speed? Mr. Andropov asked.

He said the main reason was that "our work towards perfecting and reshaping the economic mechanism and forms and methods of management has lagged behind."

The Soviet Union's main task was to "work out and consistently carry out measures which will give broad freedom of action to the colossal creative forces in our economy," he added.

Mr. Andropov said the steps he envisaged should be carefully prepared and realistic and should allow the economy to be run by economic levers rather than administrative decrees.

"The last major attempt at economic reform in the Soviet Union was made in the mid-1960s by Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, but the changes he planned met with strong resistance and were partially abandoned."

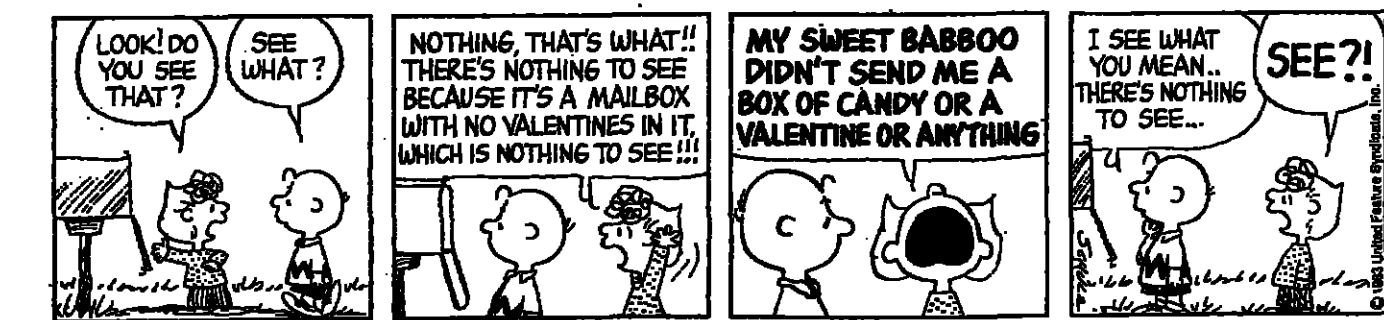
Mr. Andropov's article was by implication critical of his predecessor Leonid Brezhnev, who was not mentioned by name.

It was the clearest attempt Mr. Andropov has made to distance himself from the legacy of the Brezhnev era, at least on economic policy.

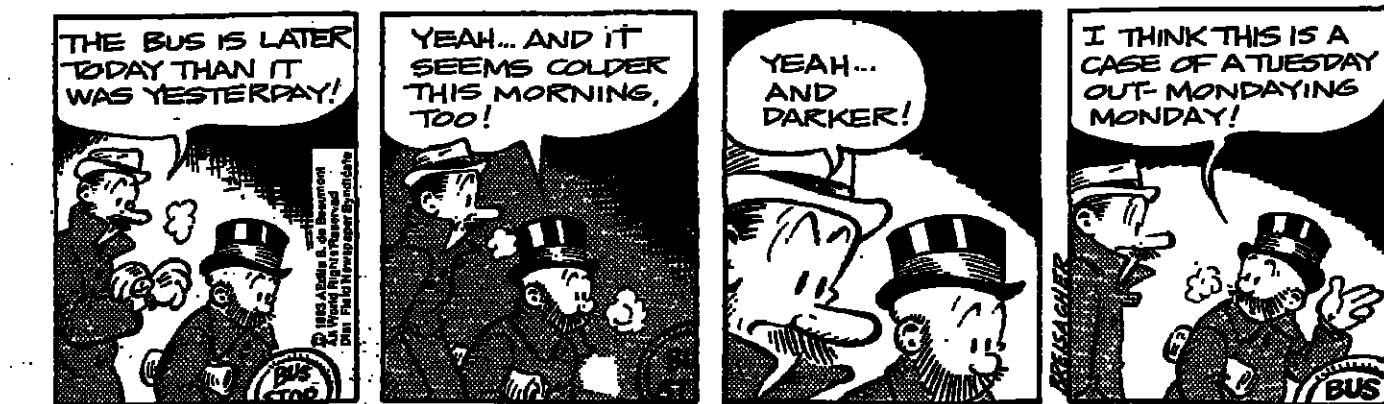
Mr. Brezhnev made several critical speeches about the state of the Soviet economy in the last years of his life but always blamed the weather or human shortcomings for poor results.

Mr. Andropov implied that under Brezhnev there had been too much equalisation of wages and called for a return to higher differentials for better or more qualified work.

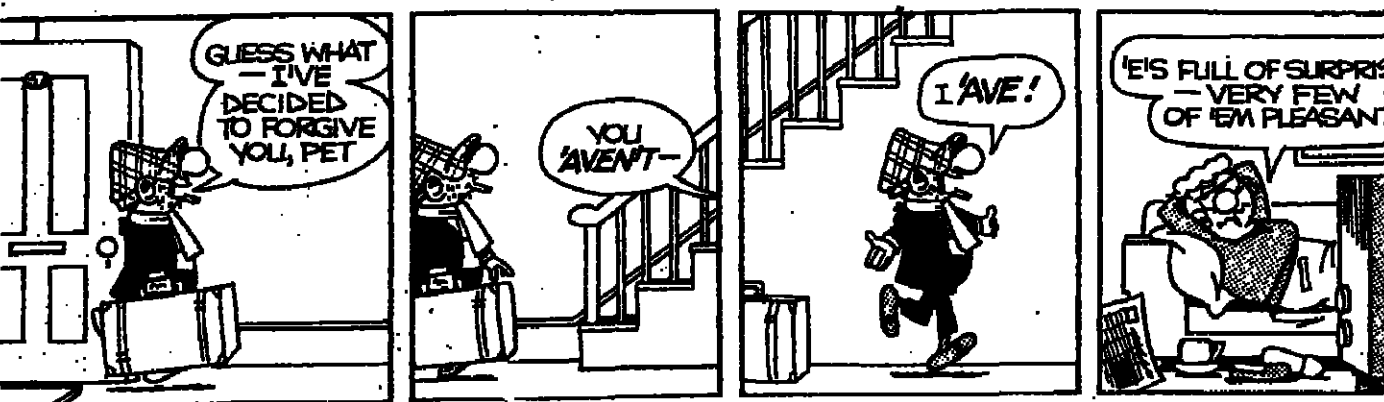
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K. oil price drops in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM (R) — The price of Britain's North Sea oil hit a four-year low on the free spot market Tuesday and was set to plunge further as sellers threatened by a collapse in world prices rushed to dump cargoes. British Brent crude traded at \$27.55 a barrel, almost \$3 below the \$30.50 official price recommended to British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) clients last Friday. Prices were quoted even lower in late trading. Nigerian light Bonny was quoted at around \$28.

Berti to join Gulf oil talks

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela's Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti is to join a crucial meeting of Gulf oil ministers discussing possible price cuts, President Luis Herrera Campins said here.

Iran clears \$333m debt

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran has cleared a debt of \$333 million with the French oil firm Elf Aquitaine, despite France's refusal to repay a \$1 billion loan from Iran, Bank Markazi Iran said Wednesday.

Nordic states stress coordination

OSLO (R) — The five Nordic countries Tuesday called for coordinated international measures to expand the world economy. A statement by the finance ministers of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland said such measures were warranted by oil price cuts, lower interest rates and improved control of inflation.

U.K. workers win wage rise

LONDON (R) — After a month-long strike, water and sewage workers have won a wage rise far above Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's pay target for public employees. Negotiators for three unions and the national water council accepted the deal Tuesday night. Formal ratification is regarded by union leaders as certain and the 29,000 strikers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are expected to return to work Thursday morning.

Sterling steadies in Europe

LONDON (R) — Sterling, which fell sharply Tuesday amid fears of an oil price war and hit a record low against the dollar in the Far East, was slightly steadier on European markets Wednesday. The dollar also held steady after opening sharply higher following a rally in the United States, dealers said. Gold, which fell nearly \$20 Tuesday to close in London at \$488.50, opened at \$477.50 but later recovered to trade around \$482.

Oil firms draw on stocks rapidly

NEW YORK (R) — Oil companies are rapidly using up their stocks as they wait for further price cuts and this may eventually rebound to the benefit of OPEC, industry analysts said here Tuesday.

Qatar's industrial output rises

DOHA (R) — Qatar's decade-old policy of encouraging industrial projects to diversify its oil-based economy has paid off, a senior minister said Tuesday. Economy and Trade Minister Nasser Bin Khalid Al Thani said steel output rose to 476,000 tonnes last year from 453,000 tonnes in 1981 and petrochemicals production rose to 260,000 tonnes from 253,000 tonnes. Sheikh Nasser said output of ammonia, urea and cement in 1982 was respectively 18, 15 and 24 per cent higher than in 1981. Exports of steel, petrochemicals and liquid gas had steadily increased to a total value of 1.6 billion riyals (about \$600 million) in 1982, he said.

Shekel's value drops tenfold

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli shekel, has dropped in value tenfold since it went into circulation three years ago.

The government in 1980 decided to chop a zero off its old lira and bring in the new currency.

Since then the cost of living has risen by more than 100 per cent each year, reaching 132 per cent in 1982.

And a 50-shekel note, worth \$13 when it was introduced on Feb. 22 1980, traded at Tuesday \$1.3.

The changeover caused considerable confusion.

Banks closed down for three days and for a six-month transition period Israelis could write out cheques either in old or new currencies.

Though everyone must use the new shekel, many Israelis continue to think and speak lira.

Israeli army radio Tuesday underlined the shekel's lack of popularity by running a gag newscast a year after the change, announcing the old lira had been reinstated due to public demand.

Former Finance Minister Yigal Hurvitz said in an interview that the currency reform he introduced should perhaps have "dropped two zeros off the old lira."

The government then hoped to flush out illegal foreign currency and get a rein on inflation by printing less money.

The move was severely criticised at the time as a costly cosmetic change that failed to deal with Israel's fundamental economic problems.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Carrying through with the duties that you enjoy doing finds you gaining satisfactory results at this time. An older person and a new acquaintance will both come to your aid.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact those who can give you the assistance you need at this time. The evening is fine for the social side of life.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take time to plan the future intelligently. Avoid a temptation to be extravagant. Try to save more money.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Entertain good friends and gain their goodwill for the future. Come to a better understanding with loved one.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to please your closest ties more and make them happy. Take needed health treatments.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Try to better understand the views of associates. Go after personal aims in the evening and get excellent results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take time to gain the goodwill of higherups and make the future brighter for yourself. Avoid the social tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are particularly charming now and others will want to do you favors. Make plans to have greater profits in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Investigate those things you do not understand and come up with the right solutions. Make new plans that are feasible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Contact good friends and gain their assistance for a plan you have in mind. Use extreme care in motion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good time for expansion in your line of endeavor. Be more sociable in the evening and meet worthwhile acquaintances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Use your hunches which are accurate now. Make plans to gain your personal aims. Show that you have wisdom.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Meditate early in the day and let your intuitive perceptions dictate the future. Try to please loved one and have more harmony.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one of those delightful person who will have much ability in organizing, so be sure to give a good education and success is bound to follow. Include spiritual and ethical training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 25, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's advisable that you attend to personal tasks despite the obstacles. Don't put yourself in a position in which delays occur. Unexpected benefits come your way later in the day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Buckle down to the work that needs to be done and handle it efficiently. Be alert to a new opportunity at this time.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't expect much from friends who are busy with own affairs right now. Make plans to have more abundance in the future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Show more courtesy and thoughtfulness to higher-ups who are under a heavy strain now. Don't neglect any payments.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Meet new and interesting persons who can help you in career matters. New situations should be studied with care.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Knowing what higher-ups expect of you makes the going easier and you stay on the right track. Think constructively.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Listen to views and complaints of associates and come to a better accord. Sidestep a foe who is jealous of you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid a co-worker who is in a bad mood right now. Take more time for rest and build up your energies. Be logical.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Not a good day to take any risks. You must use tact to gain acceptance of others at this time. Show others you have wisdom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make sure you choose your words well with others or there could be a gross misunderstanding. Be more optimistic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Much care should be exercised in motion today to avoid possible accident. Try not to get drawn into arguments with others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Exercise extreme care where monetary affairs are concerned or you could find yourself in a financial bind.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take care of a troublesome situation without delay. Make the effort to improve health and appearance. Be wise.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will know what to do in difficult situations, so direct the education along troubleshooting lines for best results. A compassionate nature in this chart. Give ethical and spiritual training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

WORLD

Troops alert in Assam as Congress wins elections

NEW DELHI (R) — Troops were called out to quell fresh violence in the northeastern state of Assam as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party swept the board in results being declared after last week's elections.

In Parliament, the government acknowledged Tuesday that more than 1,000 people died during the poll, the worst bloodshed in an election since Indian independence from Britain in 1947.

By early Wednesday the Congress had an absolute majority in the 126-member state assembly, winning 65 of 74 seats declared.

But with results showing that large numbers of Assamese boycotted the ballot, the victory appeared hollow and the signs were that unrest sparked by an anti-immigrant campaign would continue.

Militant Assamese students leading the campaign said they would refuse to cooperate with the new administration and would continue their drive to get the migrants evicted.

The government avoided using troops during the week-long ballot. But as results came in, the state administration asked district

authorities to call out the army to put down clashes wherever necessary.

Troops were deployed in several areas as sporadic clashes flared, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

Cause of violence

GAUHATI, India (R) — Fear among Indian tribesmen that Bangladeshi immigrants were taking over their land led to last week's violence in central Assam in which at least 500 villagers died.

The slaughter around Nellie, in the central Nowgong district of Assam, also resulted partly from fears that a militant ethnic Assamese campaign against immigrants would one day engulf the tribespeople too, analysts said.

Although many people in the three-week violence died in Hindu-Muslim clashes and when police fired on attacking crowds, the most numerous and gruesome killings were by tribesmen.

A few days before the Nellie incidents, tribal groups in a different part of the Brahmaputra River Valley massacred an estimated 100 Hindu Assamese and

und Ghopur. Assam's original area has already been split into five states since India became independent in 1947.

In the Nowgong district the Lalung tribesmen, who resented immigrants being given government land on the foothills of the Mikir Hills, had offered to support the anti-immigrant movement in return for their own autonomous district.

The two million tribespeople in Assam share the sense of alienation from the rest of India felt by tribes in other parts of the sensitive northeastern region.

The sense of alienation is partly because the entire northeastern region is connected with India only through a narrow strip of land called the Siliguri Neck. Between the northeast and the rest of India lies Bangladesh.

Analysts said conflicts in the region, which also borders China, stem from the fact that its peoples have different ancestries, speak hundreds of different dialects and are in various stages of economic, social and political development.

A common complaint is that New Delhi neglects the region.

Harold Washington sure of his chances of becoming Chicago's 1st black mayor

CHICAGO (R) — Representative Harold Washington, seeking to become Chicago's first black mayor, apparently defeated Mayor Jane Byrne in Tuesday's primary election but Mrs. Byrne Wednesday refused to concede.

Federal officials, citing fraud allegations, impounded the ballots even before the polls closed.

The contest to pick the Democratic Party nominee for mayor, tantamount to election in heavily Democratic Chicago, drew 80 per cent of the voters to the polls, a primary record.

An electoral victory by Mr. Washington would make Chicago the latest and largest of 22 U.S.

cities that have elected black mayors, including Los Angeles, Atlanta and Detroit.

"It appears that I've been nominated. I proudly and humbly accept," Mr. Washington said.

Mayor Byrne said: "At this moment the election is truly too close to call."

With 98 per cent of the vote reported, the 60-year-old Mr. Washington had 410,780 to 380,840 for Mrs. Byrne and 339,277 for state's attorney Richard Daley, son of the former mayor.

Of Chicago's nearly 1.6 million voters, 600,000 are black. Black voters supported Mr. Washington heavily at the ex-

pense of Mrs. Byrne who was elected four years ago with black backing in a campaign against the political machine built by Mr. Daley's father during 21 years as mayor.

Mr. Washington, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 1977, once served a jail sentence for income tax evasion. He was once disbarred as a lawyer for taking money from clients but not doing the work.

Mrs. Byrne's term was a tumultuous one. She built a political machine of her own and used it to woo the voters with such practices as giving hampers to the poor at Christmas and road building and jobs programmes at election time.

Shergar's owners go to court

DUBLIN (R) — The owners of the champion racehorse Shergar, stolen two weeks ago, are claiming damages of 20 million Irish pounds (\$28 million) from an Irish local authority, the authority's spokesman said Wednesday.

The owners' syndicate lodged the malicious damages claim with Kildare county council, which administers the region containing the Aga Khan's Ballymanna stud where Shergar was taken, the council spokesman said.

The sum claimed represents nearly double the horse's nominal value, held in 34 shares of which the Aga Khan owns six, and appears to be based on estimated loss of stud fees if the horse has been killed or badly injured.

Shergar was due to have covered some 55 mares, at £70,000 pounds (\$96,000) a time, in the breeding season which began 10 days ago and lasts until the end of June.

Shergar, the 1981 English and Irish Derby winner, is regarded as one of the greatest modern racehorses.

The damages claim is based on Ireland's Malicious Injuries Act, which provides for compensation for damage to property. Claims must be lodged within two weeks of the incident and lawyers described the syndicate's demand as a "holding claim."

One leading lawyer was quoted by the Irish Times Wednesday as saying he doubted the claim would succeed, particularly as there was no evidence Shergar had been harmed.

An anonymous telephone caller in Northern Ireland claimed soon after Shergar was stolen that the horse had been put down after injuring himself. But there was no evidence the call was genuine.

A Kildare county council spokesman said it would fight the claim and the amount up to the supreme court if necessary.

He said even if the case went against the council it would be liable only for a maximum of £120,000 (\$165,000) and the state would pay the rest.

Lech Walesa fails to attend Katowice mass

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has dropped plans to attend a mass supporting the banned Polish Union at Katowice in the industrial heartland of Silesia Wednesday, sources at his home said.

Mr. Walesa said at the weekend he had accepted an invitation to the mass for those killed and injured, arrested and convicted during martial law.

But a spokesman at his Gdansk home said on the telephone Wednesday that "for technical reasons" he would not be going.

Neither the church nor the authorities had put pressure on the union leader, the spokesman added.

In Katowice Wednesday the

mass's organiser, former Solidarity official and veteran union campaigner Kazimierz Switon, was summoned by the authorities to the prosecutor's office.

Last week Mr. Switon wrote an open letter to Communist leader and Prime Minister Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski asking that the Pope be allowed to visit a Catholic shrine near Katowice when he visits Poland in June.

He also called for a monument at the Wujek colliery near Katowice where at least nine miners died in clashes with security forces in the early days of martial law.

"I am waiting for a reply from you or even for an arrest warrant," the letter ended.

El Salvador rules out truce during papal trip

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Government troops and left-wing guerrillas were battling on three fronts as Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia reiterated there would be no ceasefire during the Pope's visit to El Salvador next month.

While residents of the besieged town of Suchitoto reported heavy fighting throughout Tuesday, military sources said government artillery and fighter-bombers were blasting guerrilla positions on the flanks of the nearby Guazapa volcano.

Meanwhile in El Salvador's rugged north-eastern province of Morazan the guerrillas attacked

the outskirts of the provincial capital of San Francisco Gotera, headquarters of a key army unit, military sources said.

The fighting spotlighted the Salvadorean guerrillas' growing capability to tie up large parts of the U.S.-backed armed forces despite their superior firepower and American-supplied heavy equipment.

In a move which reflected growing government concern over the international publicity given to a string of recent rebel successes, the army has issued orders to all field commanders to cease giving information to international and local news media.

Java's Borobudur reopened

MAGELANG, Indonesia (R) — President Suharto of Indonesia Wednesday officially reopened the eighth century Borobudur Buddhist temple in central Java after more than 10 years of meticulous restoration sponsored by UNESCO.

Amadot Mahtar M. Bow, director-general of UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), and representatives from 26 countries and private organisations were at the ceremony.

The restoration involved the removal of more than one million stones catalogued by computer, restoring them and rebuilding the temple. A concrete base had to be built, and dirt and fungi had to be cleaned from statues and wall reliefs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain gets its 1st woman train driver

LONDON (R) — A woman has driven a British passenger train for the first time in the railways' 175-year history. Anne Winter, 23, who qualified this week as Britain's first female train driver after three years training, ferries commuters to and from London's Waterloo station. Anne, a former veterinary nurse, said: "I was watching all the trains go back and forth one day and I thought, 'why can't I do that?'" She added: "At first I was treated as a bit of a curiosity by the other drivers. Now I'm just one of the lads."

Canadian prison riot trial continues

ST. JEROME, Quebec (R) — A convict was sentenced to 25 years without parole after pleading guilty to murdering three guards in Canada's worst prison riot. Jason Gallant, 30, surprised the courtroom when he abruptly pleaded guilty on the second day of his trial. Last July, three guards were killed and two convict ringleaders committed suicide after a botched mass breakout at a Montreal prison rapidly degenerated into a brutal riot. Three other prisoners were also given 25-year sentences for their part in the killings.

Iran's U.N. delegate raps U.S.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iran's delegate has rejected suggestions that Libya was a threat to the United States which, he said, had four times more alcoholics and addicts than the entire Libyan population. Taking part in the Security Council debate on a Libyan complaint against the United States, Iranian U.N. representative Rajae-Khorassani said: "The entire population of Libya, which has allegedly threatened American interests, is slightly above three million." "The number of the alcoholics and other addicts is definitely beyond four times the total population of Libya, and yet the threat comes from Libya," he added.

Seoul sentences woman to death

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean woman was sentenced to death by hanging for spying for North Korea and trying to foment social unrest in the south, court officials said. Kim Yong-Hee, 26, a student at a private educational institute, was found guilty of violating the country's national security law by passing information to the North on social conditions in South Korea.

Sex education compulsory in the USSR

MOSCOW (R) — Sex education, which has long been resisted by some teachers, parents and local authorities, will be introduced as a set subject in all Soviet schools, a Moscow newspaper said. The paper, Komсомолская Pravda, said the decision reflected growing concern among Soviet leaders about the country's rocketing divorce rate and in particular the fragility of marriages among teenagers and couples in their early 20s.

S. Africans, Angolans discuss troubled border

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African and Angolan delegations met in the Cape Verde Islands Wednesday for talks on the conditions for peace along the troubled Namibian (South West African)-Angolan border. Foreign Minister P. Botha said in Cape Town.

He was answering questions about the long-awaited second meeting between the two countries following talks in Cape Verde on Dec. 7.

Mr. Botha said the South African delegation would return home before the end of the week. The South African delegation is

led by the director-general of foreign affairs, Hans van Dalsen, assisted by the ambassador to the United States, Brand Fourie, other foreign affairs department officials, and members of the South African Defence Force.

An Angolan delegation led by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Venancio de Moura arrived in the Cape Verde Islands Tuesday.

The talks take place against a background of fighting in northern Namibia, where the South African Defence Force says it has killed 129 guerrillas of the black nationalist South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO).

who infiltrated the territory from Angola.

Two Defence Force men have died in the operations.

The opposition Rand Daily Mail said Wednesday that the decision not to send cabinet minister to the renewed talks was regarded by some observers as a sign of South African anger at the opening of a new offensive by SWAPO in northern Namibia.

Abduction in Namibia

WINDHOEK, Namibia (South West Africa) (R) — A group of Angolan-based guerrillas ab-

ducted 35 school children and three teachers at the weekend and took them across the Namibian border into Angola, an Ovambo administration official said.

The incident took place on Friday in Western Ovambo, part of the operational area of northern Namibia in the bush war between the black nationalist South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) and South African-led forces.

SWAPO has been accused of many similar abductions as part of what the South Africans say is an intimidation campaign against the local inhabitants.

Bonn's labour minister turns star campaigner

BONN (R) — Labour Minister Norbert Blum, with a controversial hardhitting style and gift for headline-making phrases, is turning out to be one of the assets of the government's campaign for the March 6 elections.

Soaring unemployment was bound to focus attention on him, but even before campaigning began a series of controversial statements had transformed the Christian Democrat (CDU) minister into a media personality and ensured his position as a leader of Chancellor Kohl's election shock troops.

The new centre-right coalition had been in power for less than a week when the diminutive Mr. Blum suggested that trade unions volunteer for a six-month wage freeze. The seemingly off-the-cuff remark in a magazine interview caused the first major political storm for the new government.

The dust had hardly settled before

the minister launched a strong attack on industrialists, calling on them to fulfil their duty by increasing investment and thus creating more jobs.

Industry reacted as angrily as the unions had earlier. Many observers believed Chancellor Kohl would have to bring his minister publicly to heel if the traditionally close links between employers and the CDU were not to be badly damaged.

But Mr. Kohl decided not to castigate Mr. Blum, convincing many that the ebullient minister had established himself as an essential element of the government's election campaign.

Opponents have often been misled by the bespectacled minister's appearance, calling him a "clown" — and worse. But Mr. Blum's fire and gift for the headline-catching phrase is proving a great asset in an otherwise drab government team.

Woman pleads guilty to taking part in Los Angeles massacre

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 22-year-old woman tearfully pleaded guilty to four murders and 16 other charges in the "Bob's Big Boy massacre" which stunned Los Angeles in 1980.

Two men were accused of robbing 11 customers and employees of \$1,700 at a Bob's Big Boy restaurant, then herding them into a refrigerator and opening fire with shotguns.

Four of the victims were killed and five wounded.

The woman, Carletha Stewart, was alleged by the prosecution to

have driven the two raiders to the restaurant on Dec. 14, 1980.

Her former boyfriend, Rene Sanders, 26, has been sentenced to death for the killings. Another man, Franklin Freeman, has still to stand trial.

Under the terms of an agreement worked out between the prosecution and defence, Miss Stewart faces a maximum sentence of up to 25 years imprisonment in return for pleading guilty. She could be eligible for parole in 17 years.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkisson

APPLAUSE

By Mary C. Whitten

ACROSS

- 1 Failure, as a play
- 2 "Over" Hart
- 3 With S. D. author of "Harvey"
- 14 Action movie
- 19 Head
- 20 "and resolve" into
- 21 Italian commune
- 22 Owner of Tare
- 23 Strategist
- 24 Author of the actor
- 25 The actor
- 26 Purple and blue
- 27 Turban — of old times
- 28 Dry, as wine
- 31 Charming
- 32 Heavy and
- 33 Heavy and
- 34 Cuddles

DOWN

- 1 Knowledge
- 2 Japanese
- 3 British
- 4 Dick Van Dyke
- 5 Sea
- 6 Kappa work
- 7 Defect
- 8 Green
- 9 Man of accounts
- 10 "My dear"
- 11 "Street"
- 12 Small silver
- 13 Before time
- 14 Sassy
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Diagrams

17 X 17, by Adam Christopher

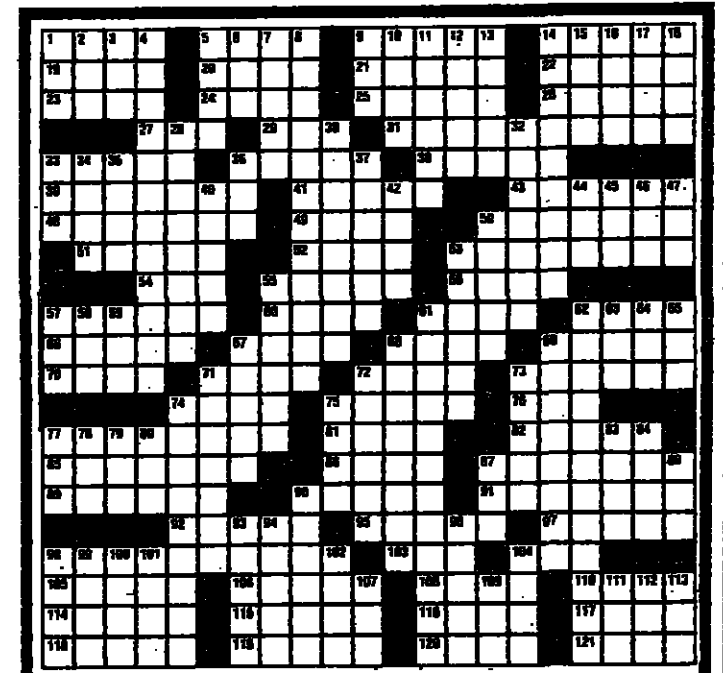
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APPLAUSE 130

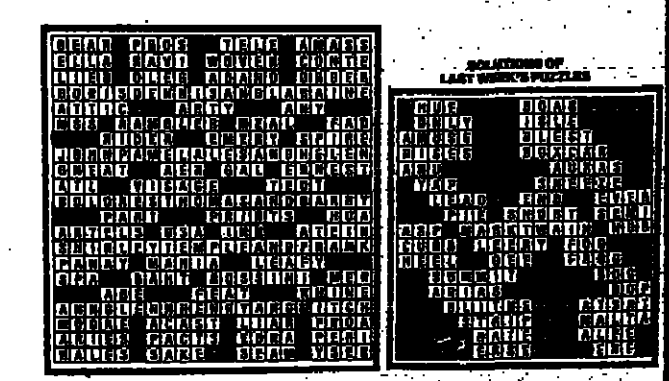


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Middle-aged knight remarked that by night he'd likely be "a drizzle."
2. Comforted, doesn't build or maintain helping muscles.
3. Big burly Haggard took his little rubber duck to the beach for security.
4. Owner of new silver was drove over friend's hand.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. M AGJEIQ YIBEGH AIBIEON RUAUQZ OMP
2. IRON DIJI HGJIPZ QIHEYRIQ BUJ DEHI GEL
3. NEBOOT, QSP FJBCVDSJY HESLOST LUV ISD UD
4. EQQY SI DEY JUICY.
5. CB NUJM BOHUMN KLFMLK LU RU-EXN, NUJ
6. HCRXL PK EODD BUMBOL CLI
7. MER BUSNONOT MOXYWT BAKIIEYK ISTORY
8. SIXX UXSANWYE NOUYER



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